

NEWS *from the National Wildlife Refuge System*

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Larry Dean 612-725-3519

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES: PART OF AMERICA'S HUNTING TRADITION

Nearly 300 of our Nation's 511 National Wildlife Refuges are open to small game, waterfowl, or big game hunting.

Although hunting is a popular outdoor activity on refuges, it is permitted only where it is compatible with the purpose for which the refuge was established. Refuge hunts often play an important role in helping keep populations of some wildlife species at levels the refuge habitat can support.

Last year, approximately 1.6 million people hunted on national wildlife refuges. By contrast, some 14.1 million people 16 and older enjoyed hunting nationwide in 1991--nearly 11 million big game hunters, almost 8 million small game hunters, and about 3 million waterfowl hunters.

Included here is a sampling of hunting opportunities around the country on national wildlife refuges. Those interested in hunting opportunities at these and other refuges should contact refuge staff to obtain more specific information on hunting seasons, rules, or special hunts such as those hosted for youth and the physically challenged.

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, northeast of Houston, Texas, draws waterfowl hunters to an abundance of mallards, gadwalls, wigeons, northern pintails, green- and blue-winged teal, cinnamon teal, Canada geese, and black ducks. In fact, late fall and early winter bring opportunities to witness the flight of up to 80,000 geese and 100,000 ducks. For more information about specific hunting regulations and season dates, call refuge staff at 409-267-3337 or Texas Parks and Wildlife at 800-792-1112, Ext. 4607 or write to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 278, Anahuac, Texas 77514-0278.

Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Complex, located south of King Salmon, Alaska, attracts big game hunters in search of brown bears among 3.5 million acres of seemingly untouched Alaskan peninsula. An estimated 2,500 to 3,000 brown bears, each weighing more than 1,000 pounds, form one of the world's largest concentrations of the species. Hunters may also glimpse a herd of about 15,000 caribou moving gracefully across the tundra. For details on big game hunting opportunities, contact refuge staff at 907-246-3339 or write to Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 277, King Salmon, Alaska 99613.



AMERICA'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES...
where wildlife comes naturally!

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in Socorro, New Mexico, is a great choice for small game hunters seeking cottontail rabbits and quail. Not only can sportsmen and -women pursue their favorite pastime, they can also thrill at the sight of the world's largest winter concentration of greater sandhill cranes--around 12,000! For small game hunting information, call the refuge staff at 505-835-1828 or New Mexico Game and Fish at 505-841-8881, or write to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 1246, Socorro, New Mexico 87801.

Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge, located south of Topeka, Kansas, is a great location for small game and upland game bird hunting. Often home to the largest concentrations of prairie chickens in the United States, this refuge also is home to a wide range of migratory birds. For more information about hunting opportunities, call refuge staff at 316-392-5553 or write to Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 128, Hartford, Kansas 66854.

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge north of Yuma, Arizona, offers waterfowl hunters a variety of opportunities, with mallards; gadwalls; wigeons; northern pintails; green-winged, blue-winged, and cinnamon teal; and Canada geese. Imperial provides a winter home for many waterfowl within the desert's beauty. For more information about hunting opportunities, call refuge staff at 602-783-3371 or Arizona Game and Fish at 602-789-3354 or write to Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 72217, Martinez Lake, Arizona 85365.

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge south of Anchorage, Alaska, is a favorite for bear and moose hunters. Kenai became a refuge largely at the urging of local people and conservation groups to ensure habitat preservation for the moose. Several thousand of these huge mammals can be found here. For information about big game hunts at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, call staff at 907-262-7021 or write to Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 2139, Soldotna, Alaska 99669.

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge in southern Alaska is said to belong to the bears, eagles, and salmon. Big-game hunters travel to this beautiful refuge to hunt bears and deer. During salmon spawning runs, it hosts the world's densest population of brown bears. Bears will crowd the island's river's and streams. Male bears can stand as tall as 9 feet and weigh 1,400 pounds. For more information on big game hunting opportunities at Kodiak, call refuge staff at 907-487-2600 or write to Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, 1390 Buskin River Road, Kodiak, Alaska 99615.

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, nestled in the desert near Yuma, Arizona, offers hunters the opportunity to bag such big game as the elusive bighorn sheep or mule deer. This beautiful

southwestern Arizona refuge features jagged peaks raising thousands of feet from the desert floor and changing colors as the lighting varies. For more information about hunting regulations, dates, etc., call refuge staff at 602-783-7861 or Arizona Game and Fish at 602-942-3000 or write to Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 6290, Yuma, Arizona 85366-6290.

Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge, located southeast of Bismarck, North Dakota, draws upland hunters for ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian partridge, sharp-tailed grouse and white-tailed deer. Fall brings spectacular migrations through this northern refuge. For more information about hunting, call refuge staff at 701-387-4397 or write to Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge, R.R. 1, Box 23, Moffit, North Dakota 58560.

National Elk Refuge north of Jackson, Wyoming, hosts elk hunting each year. Home to the largest wintering elk herd in the world (as many as 10,000!), the refuge is breathtaking with its snow-topped mountains and bull elk weighing up to 700 pounds. For more information about elk hunting, call refuge staff at 307-733-9212 or write to National Elk Refuge, 675 East Broadway, P.O. Box C, Jackson, Wyoming 83001.

Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, located east of Plymouth, North Carolina, is open to hunting for small game, upland game birds, and waterfowl. One of the newer refuges, Pocosin is also home to deer, black bears, and a wide variety of other animals. For more information about hunting opportunities, call refuge staff at 919-797-4431 or write to Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Route 1, Box 195-B, Creswell, North Carolina 27928.

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge northwest of Wichita, Kansas, is open to both waterfowl and small game hunting. Quivira is a key stopover for migratory birds on their treks between wintering and breeding grounds. Birdwatchers estimate that up to half the shorebirds in America stop here during their migrations. For details about hunting season and regulations, contact refuge staff at 316-486-2393 or write to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Route 3, Box 48A, Stafford, Kansas 67578.

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge southwest of Lake Charles, Louisiana, offers sportsmen and -women the opportunity to hunt ducks, geese, and coots in areas designated by sign as waterfowl hunting areas. This refuge is one of the primary refuges of the Mississippi Flyway, home to a wide variety of migratory birds. During the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, Sabine always logs one of the Nation's highest counts with close to 200 different species. For more information about waterfowl hunting opportunities, call refuge staff at 318-762-3816 or write to Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, Highway 27 South, 3000 Main Street, Hackberry, Louisiana 70645.

Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, located northeast of Aberdeen, South Dakota, offers waterfowl hunting, featuring 300 blinds in a managed hunt area (including wheelchair-accessible blinds). Blinds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tens of thousands of waterfowl make their way to this refuge and more than 100 of the 250 species seen there stay to nest. For more information about waterfowl hunting opportunities and rules call refuge staff at 605-885-6320 or write to Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, R.R. 1, Box 25, Columbia, South Dakota 57433.

Seney National Wildlife Refuge, west of Sault Sainte Marie in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, is a popular location for bear, deer, ruffed grouse, woodcock and snipe hunters. Seney's terrain is mixed pine and hardwood forests, meadow, bog, marsh, and more than 7,000 acres of open water. The equally varied wildlife includes moose, wolves, and bald eagles. The refuge is in what is locally known as the Great Manistique Swamp with a unique string of bog topography in a wilderness area. For more information about hunting seasons, contact refuge staff at 906-586-9851 or write to Seney National Wildlife Refuge, HCR#2, Box L, Seney, Michigan 49883.

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, located east of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, opens its doors for big game, small game, and waterfowl hunting. The refuge's wildlife diversity may be linked to the fact that it lies within the transition zone of hardwood forests, coniferous forests and tallgrass prairie. The northern half of the refuge lies within the original White Earth Indian Reservation boundary. Tribal members retain their rights to wild rice harvest and trapping within the refuge. For more information about hunting opportunities, call 218-847-2641 or write to Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, HC 10, Box 145, Rochert, Minnesota 56578.

Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge south of Fargo, North Dakota, has archery and rifle seasons for deer, as well as special youth hunts. During the harsh winters, heavy snows can bring herds of 1,000 deer to feed on the refuge. For more information about specific hunting times and regulations, call refuge staff at 701-724-3598 or write to Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge, R.R. 1, Box 75, Cayuga, North Dakota 58013.

Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge in south central Oklahoma is open to hunters looking for squirrels, rabbits, quail, and spring turkeys. Wildlife found at this refuge includes migratory birds, raccoons, beavers, and large winter herds of deer. For hunting information, call the refuge staff at 405-371-2402 or the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Department at 405-521-4616 or write to Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge, Route 1, Box 151, Tishomingo, Oklahoma 73460.

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge headquartered in Winona, Minnesota, offers waterfowl hunters many great locations to seek their prize. The refuge stretches along 261 miles of the Mississippi River from Wabasha, Minnesota, to Rock Island, Illinois, along one of the most important waterfowl migration corridors in North America. Millions of migratory birds pass through annually. Up to 70 percent of the world's population of canvasback ducks feed on the wild celery in pools near LaCrosse, Wisconsin, each fall. For more information about hunting at the refuge, call refuge staff at 507-452-4232 or write to Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, 51 East Fourth Street, Room 101, Winona, Minnesota 55987.

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Indianahoma, Oklahoma, offers big game hunters opportunity to bag elk and white-tailed deer. The refuge is located near Lawton and features a breathtaking variety of wildlife and terrain. Herds of buffalo, elk, and Texas longhorns as well as a prairie dog town and much more are there to see while hunting in this spectacular southern refuge. For hunting regulations, dates, and general information, call refuge staff at 405-429-3222 or the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Department at 405-521-3851 or write to Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Route 1, Box 448, Indianahoma, Oklahoma 73552.

Getting to know the refuge nearest you can be the starting point to discover a new great spot to enjoy the thrill of the hunt within the beauty of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Want to know more about your National Wildlife Refuges or get involved? Call 1-800-344-WILD; visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service home page at <http://www.fws.gov> and click on National Wildlife Refuge System; or better yet, visit some of your 500-plus national wildlife refuges across the country!